

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
HUMPTY DUMPTY SAT ON A WALL

Sunday 6th September 2026
Missal Page 663

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When we are in an empty room, it is easy to convince ourselves that we are a loving person. But when that room begins to fill with other people, we may have to humbly admit that we are not as loving as we thought we were! Worst still, when we listen to the teaching of Jesus, it begins to dawn on us that He is not talking about 'A Hollywood Romance'. The Love which Jesus delivers with such Passion is the Love which supports us to 'lay down our life' for friends and our enemies.

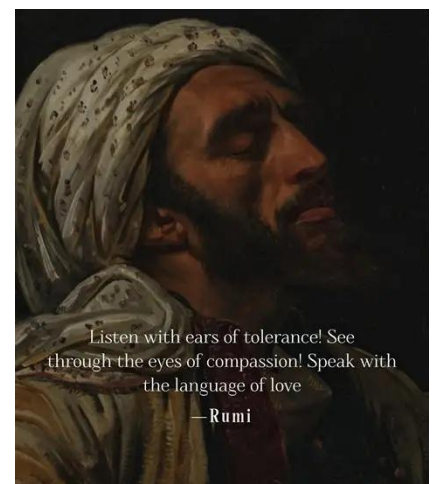
In the meantime, Jesus teaches and gives a wonderful example of the need for us to be committed to the work of reconciliation. Relationships in families, in the workplace, in schools, in neighbourhoods, in parishes and in our nation are fragile. They can and they do break easily. The moral imperative to keep working for Peace comes with a menu. Follow the suggested steps and it just might be possible to put Humpty Dumpty together again.

Step One: seek a meeting with the person who has wounded you. If the relationship is restored, no need to go the step two. If not, Step Two: invite witnesses, who have a history of being able to mend broken things, to help sort out the truth of what really happened. If this doesn't work go to Step 3: bring in more people to support the search for truth and reconciliation. If this does not work, move to Step Four: where the offender is seen as someone who needs missionary work in order to become a full member of the community once more.

The Teacher reminds the disciples that they are the mediators between earth and heaven. They are not to model their behaviour on those who exclude and alienate others. What we let go of and what we bind to ourselves is dictated by our allegiance to heaven. It is our spiritual identity which informs our actions. Heavens' agenda insists that the new humanity not only has the freedom and the strength to find new ways to make peace, but the power to make heaven come to earth. This happens when those who gather, in twos', or threes', tens or hundreds, gather around more than what has hurt them. When we gather in the name of Jesus, He is with and for all who are gathered. He is in the heart of all, breaking down the walls that separate and restoring the flow of the Love which loves all that exists.

We all need to learn how to work through conflict. We all need the courage to do it. When we are struggling to find our lion heart, the temptation is to hand the problem over to the 'higher ups'. When we are in the wrong, we need to have the ability to listen to what other people are telling us about ourselves. To listen without becoming overly defensive or overly protective of our need to be right all the time. Honest self-examination is worth much more than we know. Listening attentively protects us from rigid self-defence and from flippant apologies that are meaningless.

For Saint Matthew, reconciliation is a spiritual activity. Left to ourselves, hurt spirals beyond our control. But when we ask Jesus, in the power of the Spirit for help, we are creating a new art form. Human skill is woven by the spirit into a new tapestry.





Saint Maximilian Kolbe
GIVE Campaign Update #140

Essential Volunteers Urgently Needed:
SACRISTANS

Needed for both Sunday Masses

INTECESSORY PRAYER WRITERS

If every family volunteered to write the prayers of intercession once, people would not need to do it more than once every couple of years

Thank you to those that have come forward so far. However, we are still short on numbers.

We are looking to reintroduce the offertory processsion, so if there are any families that could help reinstate this that would be very much appreciated.

The parish toddler group will be dissolved at the end of September if nobody volunteers to help run it between now and then. Any toys/equipment that are currently in our storage will be donated to local charities so they actually see use. Please, if you're interested and feel that a toddler group is something that we should be providing to ourselves and the wider community, come forward and volunteer.

The next shipping container heading to schools in Ghana at the end of September courtesy of Thomas Donkor is now open for donations. We are looking for any books, sporting equipment, or anything else that you think a primary school would be able to put to good use.



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Thomas Donkor, on behalf of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, will also be holding a 14 year anniversary celebration of the SVP's presence in our church (and now in neighbouring churches following their recent expansion) after Masses on the last weekend of September. We would love to see as many people in attendance after Mass as possible! If you would like to be involved in planning the occasion, please contact the office.



New and exciting Parish outings are as follows:

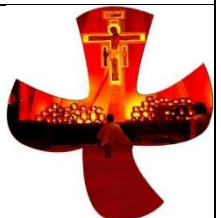
- Sat 31st October 2:30pm @ South Hill Park: Come From Away- Musical, £22
- Tues 1st December 7:15pm @ Bracknell Cinema: Nutcracker by the Royal Ballet, £23
- Sat 2nd January 7:00pm @ South Hill Park: Aladdin - Adult Panto version, £30

Please call or text 07395 077913 (Rita) to register your interest, or to discuss future events.

Prayer Group Invitation

The parish prayer group invite you on Tuesday 8th September to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from 7pm-8:15pm.

This will be a time of prayer and praise, with hymns and singing of Taizé chants. There will also be a time for any intercessions to be made.



Pastoral Care Ministry

As Catholics, we are called not only to worship together, but to care for one another as a faith community. Our Pastoral Care ministry is a wonderful opportunity to put that faith into action, offering friendship, comfort, prayer and support to those who are unable to attend Mass at church on a regular basis, if at all.



You don't need to have any special qualifications or experience; sometimes the greatest gift we can give is simply our time and our willingness to be there for someone else. If you feel that God may be calling you to share your gifts in this way, we would love to hear from you. Even a small commitment can make a very real difference to someone in our parish family. An introductory meeting is happening on **Friday 18th September at 7pm** here in the hall, and we would love it if you could attend.

QUIZ NIGHT

The annual church quiz is happening on the Saturday 19th September after the evening Mass, with prizes galore! Some interesting rounds in store for you all this year. Teams are made up of 6 people, either arranged by yourselves or by us. To register your interest, please visit this link:



<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/-/forms/w7a5gtdw>, or scan the QR code

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	04/09, 2pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	23/09, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
RCIA	Resumes 17/09, 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👶👶	20/09	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	11/09, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	08/09, 7pm	Church & Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	06/09, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	06/09, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church

Rest In Peace...



We pray for the repose of the souls of **Vilma Taborda, John Kerins Snr, Mary Hunt and Kazia Pietrzak**. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein	Charles Beard	Evelyn Caruso	Mary Phelan	Sarah Flemming
Angela Dossett	Claire Berry	Inge Walker	Mary Stocking	Stan & Margaret Aburn
Ann D'Ambrosio	Claire Hose		Mary Sullivan	Susan Tobin
Ann O'Sullivan	Colleen McCormack	Pat Sutton	Patricia Holmwood	Terri & Andy Landmann
Anne Hardy	Debbie Hanley	Jean Lovejoy	Paula Sandford	
Arthur Hardy	Dorcas Innes-Grant	Judith Newman	Peggy McCullough	
Audrey Lam	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
	Dymphna Slade	Marie Swash		
Bridget Riordan	Emma & Rico Morales	Mary King	Rita Hayes	
Carole Mayes	Edmund & Kate Carroll		Sally Torode	

To add or remove a name to this list with consent, please contact the Parish Office.

If you or your relative is housebound, or because of illness cannot come to Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion at home, call the office on 01344 425729 or email office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy **Deacon:** Rev. Aidan Lynch

Parish Administrators: Francis Barton and Donna Mody

Safeguarding Team: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read

07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

Office Hours: Monday – Tuesday 9:00-3:00pm, Wednesday – Friday 9:00-5:00pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	5 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Colin Collier RIP</i>
Sunday	6 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Private Intentions: Sarah Wear</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

Monday 7th **NO MASS**

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, *feast*

Tuesday	8 th	10am	Mass	<i>Andy Landmann (health problems)</i>
Wednesday	9 th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	10 th	10am	Mass	
Friday	11 th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	
Saturday	12 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	12 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Margaret Keohane</i>
Sunday	13 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Private Intentions: Grant Gilland</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live>

New to our parish or not yet registered?

<https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration>

Pastoral Care 01344 425729

office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you lonely? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you have not had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please do get in touch for a chat.

Bereavement Support

07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

bereavement@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with someone in our group? If so, do not hesitate to get in touch.

SVP Call IN CONFIDENCE 07731

862 349

If you are struggling financially and need practical assistance, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to help. Do call us in confidence for a chat.

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS Online, Bank Transfer, DD, <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give/>
BANK DETAILS: Account Name: CDP Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: **CDP BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 119956